

Take the Squeeze Out of Your Summer Energy Bills

This summer, state employees can participate in the Governor's Power Forward by "shaving the peak" at home and at work. When temperatures rise outside, air conditioners and chillers for state buildings and our homes create higher electrical demand for power suppliers. Although homes are not typically charged for the demand, state buildings are charged a special demand fee each month in excess of kilowatt hours used.

To help reduce the overall power demand and to save dollars, the State Building Energy Efficiency Program (SBEEP) requests employees voluntarily reduce energy use during peak hours (between 2:00 p.m. and 8 p.m.) by:

Turning up your thermostat for space cooling to 78 degrees or higher and turning off air conditioning at night. It takes less energy to recool a home or state building early in the morning than to leave the air conditioning equipment running all night!

Using compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in place of incandescent and halogen lamps. CFLs use 75% less energy, produce less unwanted heat, and last 10 times longer.

Turning off computer monitors when leaving the office for a meeting or lunch. Screen savers don't save energy.

Purchasing computers, refrigerators, printers, and other appliances that are rated Energy Star.

Turning off computers and printers when leaving for the day.

Shutting off lights when leaving an office, conference room, break room, or restroom. For fluorescent lighting, remember the 2-minute rule - if you're leaving for more than 2 minutes, turn off the lights.

Avoiding use of any appliances (dishwashers, washers, and dryers) during peak hours. Save big copy machine projects for off-peak hours.

Abandoning space heaters. If a space is too cold, contact the building manager to check temperature controls.

For "cool" tips on how to save energy and money at home and work while staying cool this summer, check out the Governor's Power Forward website at www.powerforward.utah.gov or the SBEEP website at <http://www.sbeep.utah.gov/news.htm>. You can also call the Utah Energy HOTLINE at 1-800-662-3633 or 538-5428.